THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) has reported an accident involving bursting of an LPG cylinder in Hyderabad during the month of March, 2009. No body was killed or injured in the accident as no one was present in the house when the blast occurred.

As informed by GAIL (India) Limited, no incident of bursting of genuine CNG cylinder has been reported in the country. A few accidents reported in the newspapers were due to rupture of fusible burst disc installed on the valve of the CNG cylinders in the vehicles. The possibility of accidents arises on account of installation of spurious fusible burst disc in the cylinder valves.

(b) and (c) The following procedure is in place to prevent accidents involving LPG cylinder and cylinders used in CNG operated vehicles:-

- LPG is filled in LPG cylinders manufactured as per BIS specifications and certified by them.
- LPG cylinders are periodically tested for safety as per norms of the Chief Controller of Explosives, Petroleum and Explosive Safety Organisation (PESO), Government of India.
- Filled LPG cylinders are checked for leakage before dispatch from the LPG bottling plants.
- LPG distributors of OMCs carry out pre-delivery check on the cylinder at the time of its delivery to customers.
- Customers are educated on safety through demonstration at the time of release of new LPG connection. Instructions are also printed on the Gas Customer Card and safety leaflet provided to the customers.
- OMCs carry out mandatory check of the LPG installation at the customers premises once in two years.

CNG cylinders are approved as per the Gas Cylinder Rule, 2004 before installation in the vehicles. Further, as per the Motor Vehicle Act and Rules, all vehicles are required to obtain fitness certificate from Transport Department before plying the vehicle on road. This certificate is required to be renewed as per the time prescribed in the Motor Vehicle Act.

Price Stabilisation Fund

1751. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken by Government to establish a Price Stabilisation Fund, as recommended by a Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas, to insulate the common man from the vagaries of the global crude oil price fluctuation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the plan of action to tackle the effect of global crude oil price fluctuation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) to (c) The Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas has recommended establishment of a Price Stabilization Fund, to insulate the consumers from the adverse impact of volatile international oil prices. The recommendations of the Committee were sent to the Ministry of Finance. However, Ministry of Finance has intimated that such a Fund may not be essential in view of the existing arrangements.

(d) Since passing on the entire impact of the increase in the oil prices to the consumers would result in a steep increase in the domestic prices of the four sensitive petroleum products, *viz.* Petrol, Diesel, Domestic LPG and PDS Kerosene, the Government has been modulating the retail selling prices of these petroleum products. An equitable Burden Sharing Mechanism is being followed, to ensure that the burden of under-recoveries of the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) on this account is shared by all the stakeholders, namely the Government, the Public Sector Oil Companies and the consumers. By adopting this approach, the Government has ensured that not only are the consumers protected from high international oil prices, the financial health of the OMCs also remains sound.

During 2008-09, to compensate the OMCs for their under-recoveries incurred on the sale of Petrol, Diesel, PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG, Government issued Oil Bonds of Rs.71,292 crore to the OMCs while the Upstream Oil PSUs, *viz.* ONGC, OIL and GAIL contributed Rs.32,000 crore in price discounts on crude oil and petroleum products. In addition, ONGC and OIL also contributed Rs.943 crore through price discounts towards the import losses of OMCs.

Petroleum Vision 2009

1752. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Petroleum-Vision 2009 formulated by the Ministry to check diversion of kerosene and gas into black market and misuse of subsidy being given on kerosene;

(b) the modalities set for implementing it; and

(c) the cities in Andhra Pradesh which are likely to get pipeline gas facility under it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI JITIN PRASADA): (a) and (b) There is no Petroleum-Vision 2009 formulated by this Ministry. However, this Ministry has formulated Vision-2015 "Consumer Satisfaction and Beyond" for the Oil Sector which includes the following measures to check diversion of PDS Kerosene and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to black market and misuse of subsidy being given on Kerosene: